

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 06493 280937Z

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ACTION OS-03

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P R 280915Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO AMCONSUL SURABAYA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2509

UNCLAS JAKARTA 6493

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, ID

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AMERICAN
CONSULATE SCHOOL

REFS: SURABAYA 0201 AND JAKARTA 6011

1. JES TEAM LED BY HARRIS HAD DISCUSSIONS TODAY WITH DR. MAX MAKAGIANSAR, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE, AND ASSISTANTS, ON THE SUBJECT OF STATUS OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA (THE JES IN PARTICULAR) AND THE JOINT MINISTERIAL DECISION CONCERNING THEM. THIS DECISION HAD IN FACT BEEN SIGNED BY ALL THREE MINISTRIES MOST CONCERNED (FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FINANCE, AND EDUCATION AND CULTURE) SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BUT NOT IMPLEMENTED. IT HAS BEEN CALLED BACK FOR REVISION PRIMARILY SO THAT IT CAN BE REVISED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF THE CAPITAL CITY AREA AND FOR OTHER REASONS AS WELL.

2. MAKAGIANSAR REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM HARRIS FULL PRESENTATION RE OUR VIEWS OF DECISION IN FORM WE HAD SEEN IT (DRAFT ONLY), AND OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT. ONE OF MAJOR POINTS WE TRIED TO HAMMER HOME WAS NEED FOR DECISION TO GIVE SATISFACTORY COVERAGE AND STATUS TO MEDAN AND SURABAYA SCHOOLS. THIS POINT ACCEPTED BY MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

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PAGE 02 JAKART 06493 280937Z

3. IN RESPONSE HARRIS REQUEST, MAKAGIANSAR SAID HE WOULD SEND CABLES TO HIS SUBORDINATES IN MEDAN AND SURABAYA REQUESTING THEM TO TRY TO MAINTAIN SCHOOLS' STATUS QUO SITUATION PENDING RESOLUTION IN JAKARTA OF PROBLEM OF STATUS OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS.

4. MAKAGIANSAR POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY HIS MINISTRY HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION. ONE OF PROBLEMS IN FACT IS THAT NO ONE MINISTRY HAS BEEN HITHERTO DESIGNATED TO HAVE PRIMARY INTEREST IN ALL EDUCATION AND ALL SCHOOLS AND TO COORDINATE ALL ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THEM. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED DECISIVELY BEFORE TOO LONG AND THAT THE MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE WILL BE GIVEN THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES REFERRED TO ABOVE POLICY LINE IN PARA 2 OF YOUR REFTEL IS APPROPRIATE. WE WOULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR MAKING GENERAL REFERENCES TO HARRIS/MAKAGIANSAR DISCUSSIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE.
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